

Aquila chrysaetos (Golden Eagle)

Priority 2 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

Class: Aves (Birds)

Order: Accipitriformes (Hawks, Kites, Eagles, And Allies)

Family: Accipitridae (Kites, Hawks, Eagles, Harriers, And Old World Vultures)

General comments:

Sightings in recent years leads to optimism for re-establishment as a breeder in Maine. Numbers of transients & wintering eagles very limited & currently justify listing status in all seasons.

Species Conservation Range Maps for Golden Eagle:

Town Map: [Aquila chrysaetos_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Aquila chrysaetos_HUC12.pdf](#)

SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

Risk of Extirpation:

Maine Status: Endangered

State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern: NA

Recent Significant Declines: NA

Regional Endemic: NA

High Regional Conservation Priority:

Northeast Regional Synthesis (RSGCN):

Responsibility: High, Concern: High

High Climate Change Vulnerability: NA

Understudied rare taxa: NA

Historical: NA

Culturally Significant: NA

Habitats Assigned to Golden Eagle:

Formation Name Cliff & Rock

Macrogroup Name Cliff and Talus

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Acidic Cliff and Talus

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Calcareous Cliff and Talus

Formation Name Grassland & Shrubland

Macrogroup Name Outcrop & Summit Scrub

Habitat System Name: Laurentian-Acadian Calcareous Rocky Outcrop

Habitat System Name: Northern Appalachian-Acadian Rocky Heath Outcrop

Stressors Assigned to Golden Eagle:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

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IUCN Level 1 Threat Biological Resource Use

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Hunting and Collecting Terrestrial Animals

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Exposure to carcasses laced with poisons for other predators (e.g., coyotes). Lead poisoning from ingestion of spent lead ammunition in hunter-shot game. Incidental captures in leg-hold traps and snares set for mammals.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Energy Production and Mining

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Renewable Energy

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Wind energy facilities within breeding, migratory, and wintering ranges pose potential direct (collision) and indirect (habitat loss and alteration, flight behavior, energetics) impacts.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Human Intrusions and Disturbance

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Recreational Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Limit human disturbance from recreation within the vicinity (1/4 mile) of historic nest sites.

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Work and Other Activities

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Limit human disturbance from forestry, and construction within the vicinity (1/4 mile) of historic nest sites. Structural character of historic nest sites should be maintained.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Other Options

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Lack of knowledge

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: Limited knowledge of distribution and nesting.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Pollution

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Moderately actionable

Notes: PCB's, DDT, DDE, and mercury exposure have contributed to population decline in northeastern U.S.

IUCN Level 1 Threat Natural Systems Modifications

IUCN Level 2 Threat: Other Ecosystem Modifications

Severity: Moderate Severity

Actionability: Actionable with difficulty

Notes: Maine landscape has shifted from a more open to forested complex, presumably limiting foraging opportunities.

Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Golden Eagle:

None. *Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

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Relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.